

Rev. Margaret Fountain Coleman of Mount Vernon New York and the father of one son and three daughters.

I am honored to help welcome Rev. Coleman to Messiah Baptist and I wish him nothing but the best in his tenure.

HONORING U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS SAINT PAUL DISTRICT ON 150 YEARS

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2016

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Saint Paul District on 150 years of service to residents of Minnesota and the entire upper Mississippi region. The Saint Paul district has, over the past century-and-a-half, conserved our aquatic habitats, managed the effects of drought and flood damage, provided outdoor recreation areas for the public, and ensured that the products and services produced in our region have the ability to be transported safely via our waterways. This is only to name a few of the critical tasks performed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Saint Paul District.

The Saint Paul District celebrates its birthday on August 17th every year because it was on that day in 1866 that Major General G.K. Warren, a West Point Graduate acclaimed for his leadership in the battle of Gettysburg, arrived in Saint Paul. His orders were seemingly modest: To establish an engineering office. He could not have known at the time, but the office that he established would go on to be entwined with the economy and history of the entire region. The first emergency that the St. Paul District responded to was the collapse of the Eastman Tunnel of Nicollet Island in Minneapolis. With expertise and precision, the Saint Paul district constructed structures to save both the island and nearby St. Anthony Falls. The structures that they built are still in use to this day.

Later on its history, the Saint Paul District supported the nation's mobilization during World War II. The Saint Paul District dredged the Minnesota River to the Port of Cargill, where Minnesota-based Cargill was building ships for the war effort. In addition, they also built an ordnance plant in Arden Hills, Minnesota, and airports in Fargo and Devil's Lake, North Dakota.

Today, any visit to the Mississippi River in St. Paul, showcases the work that the Saint Paul District does. The 13 locks and dams, and 9 foot navigation channel that the Saint Paul District operates and maintains, goes to support economically crucial inland navigation that benefits the entire upper Mississippi region. One of the most important tasks that the Saint Paul District has is to help communities combat the effects of flooding through disaster support and by the construction of flood risk management projects. This includes 16 large reservoirs for flood risk reduction that also offer recreation and fish and wildlife habitat. Another little known operation of the Saint Paul District is the operation of 49 separate recreation areas open to the public.

The Saint Paul District has supported the citizens of the Fourth Congressional District, and thousands of people in the upper Mis-

issippi River region for 150 years. Every task that they undertake goes to benefit the people they serve by strengthening the local economy, enabling the movement of goods and people, maintaining and restoring natural aquatic ecosystems, and reducing and preventing the effects of floods and droughts. Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the Saint Paul District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on 150 years of service.

USS "JOHN P. MURTHA" (LPD-26)

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2016

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the commissioning of the USS *John P. Murtha*, the new naval vessel named in honor of the late Congressman Jack Murtha, who will fondly be remembered as a decorated combat Marine, statesman, and dear friend to colleagues on both sides of the aisle.

On Saturday, October 8, 2016 in Philadelphia, PA, the Navy's 10th *San Antonio*-class amphibious transport dock, named the USS *John P. Murtha* (LPD 26), was commissioned by his beloved widow Mrs. Joyce Murtha and daughter Ms. Donna Murtha.

During his 58 years of service to our nation, 38 in the U.S. Marine Corps and 35 as a Member of U.S. Congress from Johnstown, PA, Rep. Murtha was an indefatigable champion for the Armed Services, rising in 1989 to chair the House Defense Appropriations Subcommittee. His detailed knowledge of the U.S. military, deep friendships across the various services, respect from his Congressional colleagues on both sides of the aisle, and wry sense of humor drew people to him and made him a highly effective lawmaker. Jack was a father of three children, the first Vietnam War combat veteran elected to Congress, recipient of the John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award, and staunch representative of his people. His own wartime experience as a battalion staff officer in Vietnam, where he was awarded the Bronze Star, two Purple Hearts, and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry, gave him deep insight into the political and military complexities of modern warfare.

An author, From Vietnam to 9/11: On the Front Lines of National Security with a New Epilogue on the Iraq War, he wrote: The Congress—the people's branch of government—has an obligation to make an independent assessment of key foreign policy issues. The way we go about collecting, analyzing, and using intelligence information is one of the most important determinants of our success or failure in world events. Unfortunately, it is a lesson we have had to learn too often, at a heavy price in American blood and treasure. What is certain, is that intelligence must always be used as a tool of statecraft, not as a political tool.

As this ship performs its missions on behalf of the American people, I have full confidence Jack Murtha's patriotic and strong spirit—Semper Fidelis—will be guiding the vessel if it encounters troubled waters as it navigates toward fair winds and following seas.

I include in the RECORD the remarks of Democratic Leader NANCY PELOSI given at the commissioning of the USS *John P. Murtha*.

PELOSI REMARKS AT USS JOHN P. MURTHA COMMISSIONING CEREMONY

PHILADELPHIA.—House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi delivered remarks today, October 8, 2016, at the commission ceremony of the USS John P. Murtha. Below are the Leader's remarks:

"Good morning. Thank you very much, Admiral William Moran for your kind introduction but more importantly, for your great leadership. As one that grew up in Baltimore, Maryland, I have a great loyalty to the Naval Academy, so I appreciate your comments about the Navy—but I had four brothers who served in the Army so . . .

[Laughter and applause]

"It is an honor to be with you today, with Secretary Valdez—please give our regards to Secretary Mabus—to Major General Christopher Owens—it is a proud day for all of us to come together for the Navy and the Marine Corps, for the Commissioning of the USS John P. Murtha.

"Chairman Murtha—as you have heard—was a legislator of unsurpassed talents, a soldier of extraordinary courage and a public servant to the end. Mr. Brady—my colleague, Congressman Brady is correct: we will never see his light again.

"I thank the Murtha family for the opportunity to make this address today. I appreciate this opportunity to bring the greetings and congratulations from Jack Murtha's many friends in the Congress of the United States, on both sides of the aisle, on both sides in the Capitol and all the way down Pennsylvania Avenue.

"I am glad to be with my colleagues—present and former—the Undersecretary of the Army Patrick Murphy—as he mentioned, the first Iraq veteran to serve in the Congress—Congressman Bob Brady, in whose district we are and great friend of Jack Murtha's, Congressman Keith Rothfus, he represents the district that Jack represented in Congress, and as well as Mark Critz, who followed in Jack's footsteps, and Marjorie Margolies-Mezvinsky, who is here as well—who represented Philadelphia in Congress. It is also an honor to be here with Lieutenant Governor Michael Stack—recognizing the important role that Pennsylvania and Philadelphia play in our national security.

"It is appropriate for us to be here in Pennsylvania to honor Jack Murtha—a state he loved and was proud to represent and to serve. In the House Chamber—Congressman Bob Brady mentioned the 'Pennsylvania Corner'—Jack took great pride that in the House of Representatives, the 'Pennsylvania Corner' was the most bipartisan corner in the Chamber. In the Chamber, everyone gravitated toward Jack Murtha—Democrats and Republicans alike.

"To Brian Cuccias—Brian and the Ingalls shipbuilders, thank you for the skill, hard work and patriotism of all the men and women of labor who built this fine ship that enters service today. And many of you were in Mississippi when Donna christened the ship. It is wonderful to see so many of you here today. Thank you. Thank you for making today possible.

[Applause]

"Commanding Officer, Captain Kevin J. Parker, it was a privilege to be with you last year in Mississippi at the Murtha's christening when you were the prospective commander, and now at this time-honored commissioning ceremony to become the Commanding Officer—that is when Donna gives the signal. When Donna gives the signal—we're all waiting for her.

"And to the sailors and the Marines—the men and women who will crew this ship over the oceans and perhaps ride it into battle, take it to humanitarian assistance—to you,